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S&ER Products Manager  
U. S. Department of Energy  
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office  
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Subject: Comments on the Suitability of Yucca Mountain as a Geologic Repository for Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste

The Department of Energy (DOE) has requested comments on the suitability of the Yucca Mountain site as a geologic repository for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. It is my opinion that Yucca Mountain is a suitable site, and that DOE should move expeditiously to develop the repository and to obtain the necessary regulatory approvals to operate the site. Supporting points are provided below.

1. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) have established environmental and safety standards for a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain. Those standards are extremely conservative and provide for the protection of public health and safety, both now and in the far future. DOE has stated that the Yucca Mountain repository should be capable of meeting the EPA and NRC standards. Accordingly, DOE should proceed to establish a repository at the site as called for by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, as amended.
2. As a matter of national policy, Congress directed DOE to characterize the Yucca Mountain site and, if deemed to be suitable, to make a site suitability recommendation. A repository for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste is needed to address an existing waste management issue. Absent any compelling technical reason to the contrary, the site should be developed as a repository.
3. DOE has spent billions of electric utility ratepayer dollars characterizing the site for a repository. If the Yucca Mountain site were not pursued at this time, the billions of dollars invested in site characterization would be wasted. Furthermore, the earliest possible time for DOE to fulfill its obligation to dispose of commercial nuclear power plant spent fuel would be put off for decades.
4. Some parties, particularly the State of Nevada and anti-nuclear groups, oppose the establishment of a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain. Though vocal, these repository opponents are acting in their own narrowly perceived self-interest, contrary to the interests of the vast majority of the people in the United States. It is incumbent upon the Federal Government to act in the interests of all United States citizens, not just a vocal few.

If you have any questions, please contact me by telephone at (704) 948-0649 or by e-mail at [sjnesbit@msn.com](mailto:sjnesbit@msn.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Nesbit', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Steven P. Nesbit